

GOT A BRAINSTORM?
WRITE A LETTER
TO THE
BANNER

McGUIRE BANNER

INTRA-POST
CHAMPIONSHIP
GAME TONIGHT
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McGUIRE GENERAL HOSPITAL

Vol. II

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1945

No. 15



SOLDIERS OF PRODUCTION—Pfc. Jack Newsome, top, gets a few pointers from a factory supervisor on drilling through steel. Newsome is an apprentice welder at Richmond Structural Steel Co. A lathe in the machine shop of Philip Morris Co. brings both civilian memories and thoughts of a bright civilian future to Pvt. Sam DeStefano. (Photos by Smith)

Patients Enter Industry As Reconditioning Activity

Initiation of a program to recondition patients through productive employment in Richmond industry while still undergoing treatment at McGuire was announced this week by Colonel P. E. Duggins, commanding officer.

The employment reconditioning program is a joint effort of Reconditioning Service, Separation Counseling Service and the United States Employment Service.

Waste of Critical Items Continues, Colonel Reports

Previous warnings about waste and loss of government property due to carelessness are not being heeded, Lieutenant Colonel William H. L. Westbrook, Jr., executive officer, declared today.

Citing examples of new and salvageable items found recently in ward waste cans, Colonel Westbrook said it was "definitely up to hospital personnel to exercise more care in the disposal of waste."

"We are still finding elastic bandages, table utensils and other critical items that have been tossed carelessly into ward waste cans," he said.

While ward waste cans still continue to yield the majority of new, usable and salvagable items, Colonel Westbrook pointed out that many similar items were being found discarded in barracks and quarters.

"All personnel of the hospital are equally at fault," Colonel Westbrook said. "We must all redouble our efforts to reduce waste."

The new reconditioning plan was seen as serving the following functions:

1. It is the most valuable form of occupational therapy, providing the patient with the connecting link between his army activities and civilian skills.
2. It aids in relieving an acute manpower shortage in skilled jobs.
3. Employers have pointed out the morale value to civilian employees of wounded soldiers working at their sides.

Veterans eligible to take part in the program are those whose recovery is advanced sufficiently to permit them to be absent from the hospital afternoons, but who must have medical attention at specified times, according to Major Craig W. Muckle, chief of the reconditioning service.

Typical of the patients now working in Richmond industrial plants are Private Sam DeStefano and Private First Class Jack Newsome, both wounded while battling the Germans.

PART-TIME JOB

DeStefano, a 33-year-old Schenectady, N. Y. paratrooper, was hit in the ankle by shrapnel in Holland last September. Although still on

(Continued on page 3)

Civilian Absence Without Leave Drops from 15 to 4.5 Percent

Absence without leave among civilian employees has declined from 15 per cent of all absences to 4.5 per cent during the past month, according to figures released by Lt. Virginia G. Breed, personnel director. Total absenteeism also has gone in for a drop, although not as great a reduction as the AWOL figure.

Wacs Throw Barn Shindig Wednesday

McGuire gymnasium converts to an ol' hayloft next Wednesday when the Wac detachment trots out a gala barn dance for all post enlisted personnel and their dates.

Pfc. Eddie Weaver and the McGuire band will swing out for an evening's ballroom dancing.

In true backwoods style, dress will be strictly from the sticks. Uniform for the occasion will be fatigues for men and cottons for Wacs.

The mess hall will pitch in with refreshments.

To further stimulate participation by patients and personnel in stage and floor shows presented on the post, Lt. John J. Berman, newly arrived special services officer, called for all entertainers, writers, program directors, scenery designers, carpenters, electricians, etc., for the formation of a soldier-shows workshop. The workshop will be open to civilians as well as soldiers.

It is intended, he said, that shows will be presented by the workshop as frequently as personnel and facilities allow, with the ultimate aim of staging a weekly entertainment.

All persons interested were asked to call extension 224, or come to the Special Services office.

Theater Schedules Sunday Matinee

Sunday matinee shows in the post theater will be held at 2 p.m. each week effective this Sunday, it was announced by Cpl. Alan Blair, theater manager. The matinees are to be held in addition to the two regular evening performances at 6:15 and 8:15 p. m.

All patients, personnel and their guests may attend the afternoon performances. During the evening, however, patients may attend the first show only.

This week's Sunday feature is "Bring On the Girls," with Eddie Bracken, Veronica Lake and Sonny Tufts.

New Recreation Head Appointed

Red Cross field director Miss Frances T. Southall announced this week the appointment of Mrs. Margaret Crutchfield as McGuire's new head recreation worker.

A native of Richmond, Mrs. Crutchfield is a graduate of Richmond Professional Institute. She also had considerable experience in the preparation of recreational programs.

Two other recent additions to the Red Cross recreational staff are Mrs. Elizabeth Trace of Westlake, Ohio, and Mrs. Jane Edwards of Bainbridge, Georgia.

Lt. Breed defined absenteeism as including annual leave, sick leave, leave without pay as obtained from proper authority, and absence without leave.

The decline was seen as the outcome of an intensive stay-on-the-job campaign which included meetings of employees, talks by Colonel Duggins, commanding officer, appeals by patients, and stories in the BANNER.

While noting encouraging signs in the absenteeism drop from the recent total figure of 24 per cent, Lt. Breed declared, "The percentage is still a far cry from the nine per cent absenteeism rate which is average for other posts in this area. As for absence without leave, no excuse exists for any."

Lt. William H. Flannagan, police and personal section chief, reported that the hospital figures released by Lt. Breed generally applied to the situation among ward personnel. Janitors, however, he pointed out, who previously had had a record almost devoid of AWOLs, have recently shown an upswing in that category.

Personnel were reminded by both officers that absence without leave, under hospital policy, is penalized with three days suspension from work and from pay on the first offense and five days on the second. Third offense means separation from the payroll.

AWOLism has also gone downhill among mess hall personnel during the past month, according to Lt. Dorothy R. Baines, assistant chief, mess and dietetics branch. Total absentee figures have undergone little material change, she reported.

New Patient CO

Lt. Pat R. Brewer has been appointed CO, Detachment of Patients, replacing Captain Bentley Frederick who has been transferred to Camp Pickett, it was announced this week.

Lt. Brewer is located in the Registrar's office extension 466.



Tull wheels "Baby" Sansbury back to the Red Cross after joy-ride in the arcade.

Baby Bottle Gag Brings House Down In 'Monkeyshines'

Evidence of why McGuire patients tremble when it's "Monkeyshines at McGuire" time—and why they still come back for more—was given in last week's show when Pvt. Bob Sansbury, Ward 10, found himself being wheeled down the arcade in baby's togs (see picture) as a result of missing a question about babies. Pfc. Rome Tull, who also slipped up in the quiz, played papa, dressed Sansbury in a pink paper baby cap, turkish towel diaper and Ghandi-drape gown. He supplied Sansbury with a milk bottle and wheeled him down for the world to witness.

Numerous other gags, many of which paid off cash prizes, contributed to the hilarity which guaranteed a full audience when "Monkeyshines" broadcasts from the Red Cross auditorium again Friday night. Pre-broadcast warm-up gets under way at 7 p.m. The show is

(Continued on page 2)

\$2,500 Red Cross Fund Quota Topped in Drive's Final Day

McGuire went substantially over the top yesterday in contributions for its quota of \$2,500 for the annual nationwide Red Cross Fund Drive, Captain Pierre P. Lahens, chairman, revealed today. The drive closed yesterday.

Thanking civilian as well as military personnel for their enthusiasm, Captain Lahens expressed gratefulness for the response to the drive in its last

few days when for a time it appeared the hospital might fall short of its quota. He singled out for special praise Mrs. Leonora Dalton and Miss Agnes Merritt, who directed the drive among civilians.

Slightly more than one per cent of funds collected for the Red Cross are earmarked for administrative costs, which means that here at McGuire as well as in other hospitals of similar type, almost ninety-nine cents of each dollar contributed will be used to further the comfort and

well-being of the soldier patients in the hospital.

That letter to the family of a wounded boy who has just returned from overseas where he was hit in the arm is written by a Red Cross worker, present because a donation made it possible.

The soldier in a traction bed who wants to send a gift home to the baby son he has not yet seen, tells a Red Cross worker and she shops for the gift, wraps it under the sol-

(Continued on page 3)

McGUIRE BANNER

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Behind the Cider Casks

By PVT. LEONARD GREENBERG
Patient, Ward 39

It was a little French town on the outskirts of Normandy. The cider was particularly good in this little village. There wasn't very much left of the place, as our artillery had been very active for the week preceding our entry.

Now we were here. It was very quiet and the Germans were fully a half-mile of hedgerows away. It was one of those precious moments given to rest in a weary business of war.

We looked for the finest chateau around and located there. "We" was our battalion aid station, a group of the finest first-aid doctors in any war. And also a group of the thirstiest. "The Preacher," "Rusty," and myself were the best cider-sniffers our division ever had. Well, anyway, three of the best.

All of which sets the scene for this crazy bit of business that jumped out at us when we did a small reconnaissance in the cider cellar of this old chateau.

Rusty thought at first that the racket coming from the back end of the cellar was a stray German or two or our rifleman had overlooked. He signalled, "Ps-s-t! Hey—Germans—Booby traps! Herr Doktorr—you go and see." But Rusty was talking to air. "Herr Doktorr" was me and my feet told me they weren't going anywhere except maybe out and away—but fast!

Immediately The Preacher started sermonizing on the evils of pilfering someone else's cider. Then "the thing" brushed up against his leg.

"Hell-fire! Judgment day has come. God has punished —" but our laughter cut him short.

From out of the dark—from behind the huge cider casks—had staggered this terror. Unarmed, but unafraid, he came on. Brave as any soldier, brave as any of us, he moved toward us. Slowly at first, but then in a quicker, clumsy step.

The scent of Normandy's best apple-cider was heavy on our little visitors' breath. It smelled to me that he lived here for some time. By now our friend had managed to walk a somewhat steadier path. He was still wavering a little, stumbling over things in the dark.

Now he stopped. Out of two bleary-red eyes he appraised the situation, estimated the enemy's forces (meaning us), and with an air of hurt dignity raced fiercely into the sunlight in an open break for freedom.

"Drunken ducks! Oh, God! . . . dirty drunken duck!" Rusty and I burst out laughing and shouting all at once.

The Preacher saw him now for the first time. He walked up to where the duck was standing "God bless you—poor little thing," The Preacher said, whereupon our web-footed soak pointed his bill deliberately upward and burped full into The Preacher's face.

"K-rations—and stewed duck for supper," yelled The Preacher.

Bars and Stripes

To First Lieutenant
2nd Lt. Frank C. Pound.
2nd Lt. Elizabeth O. Emory.

To Corporal
Pfc. Charles W. Coggins, Jr.
Pfc. Edward F. Sweeney.

To Tec 5
Pfc. Worley W. Freye.

To Private First Class
Pvt. Joseph Gould.
Pvt. Mary E. Keeley.
Pvt. Joseph G. Powell.

74 Women Medical Officers in Army

There are currently 74 women medical officers serving in the Army, according to the Office of The Surgeon General. Of this number four are majors, 36 are captains and 34 are first lieutenants. They have been certified as internists, neuropsychiatrists, obstetricians, gynecologists, pathologists, radiologists and anesthetists, and the Army has given them assignments in line with their specialties at general, regional and station hospitals as well as the two WAC training centers. Seventeen of these women medical officers are now serving overseas.

McGuire Scroll of HONOR



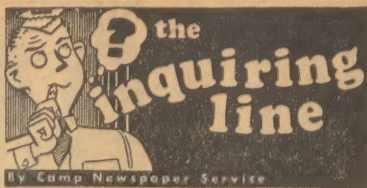
Among McGuire employees who have completed a year of continuous service here this week are Early Lee Blanks, left, and Frank Van Staden, right, of the post engineer's shop. Also completing their year this week are Shields S. Newcomb and Lloyd J. Streigel of the engineers.

'Monkeyshines'

(Continued from page 1)
heard at 7:30 over WRNL.

"Open House at McGuire," which features small and big talk of patients, as well as their favorite stories and experiences, will be heard Saturday at 4 p.m. over WRVA.

Juvenile delinquency is when kids start acting like their parents.



Q. I enlisted in the Navy when I was 16. Now they have discovered my true age. Is it true that I will get a dishonorable discharge and am I out of luck on mustering out pay?

A. If a man is under 17 when discharged, his enlistment is cancelled and he gets a discharge "under honorable conditions," and transportation but no mustering out pay. If he is over 17 when discharged, he gets the same "under honorable conditions" discharge and the mustering out pay.

Q. Are there any charges for a guaranty of loan under the GI Bill of Rights?

A. No. Commissions, brokerage or similar charges may not legally be made against a veteran for securing a guaranty of loan. Fees usually borne by a borrower—such as appraisal, title research and guaranty, transfer fees, etc., may be charged against the veteran.

Q. I am with a combat engineers unit in the field. Am I part of the Army Service Forces or of the Army Ground Forces?

A. A combat engineering unit in the field comes under the Army Ground Forces. The Office of the Chief of Engineers, the over-all headquarters of the Engineers, however, is part of the Army Service Forces.

Q. When I get out of the Army I want to go into business with a civilian, forming a partnership. We'll both needs loans to finance our share of the deal. Will the fact that I plan to form a partnership with a civilian in any way restrict or limit my right to the loan benefits of the GI Bill of Rights?

A. No. If you meet the other requirements set up by law and the regulations of the Veterans' Administration, you will be entitled to the benefits of the GI Bill of Rights. Your right to a loan will not be impaired by reason of the fact that you plan to enter business in partnership with a civilian.

Library Notes

Many technical books purchased upon request have recently been received by the library.

Mechanical Drawing covers the skills and technical knowledge which are needed in the specialized field of drawing. This book is profusely illustrated and gives many interesting problems in drawing.

A careful study of the pages of Blueprint Reading will enable one to translate the ideas of the designer and to read a blueprint as though it were a book.

Judging from recommendations of the War Department, Fundamentals of Machines provides information necessary to master operational skills for twenty or more army occupations.

If you are interested in becoming a salesman, study Effective Retail Selling which aims to prepare the salesman with knowledge of goods and techniques of selling.

To get away from occupational and instructive reading, for your leisure time try Joseph Wechsberg's Looking for a Bluebird, a book of memories of wacky itinerant musicians—mostly from a ship's orchestra.

To answer the question, "What are the best sellers?" the New York Times Book Review section in its weekly selections lists Cronin's The Green Years as No. 1 on the fiction list. Cannery Row by John Steinbeck is running a close second. While the next three places are filled by Earth and High Heaven by Graham, Shellabarger's Captain from Castile and Ferber's Great Son.

—Virginia Greene

The Wolf

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"Er—are you sure it's Miss D'Arcy?"

4 Patients Praise Homecooked Chow At Hotel Resort

Four McGuire patients who accepted invitations to spend the weekend in Louisa, Va., as guests of the Patrick Henry Hotel gave glowing reports of the trip upon returning to the hospital.

Mrs. J. W. Baker, proprietor of the hotel, personally issued a special invitation for McGuire patients in groups of not more than four to spend weekends at the hotel.

"Real Southern hospitality," averred infantry Privates John H. Veach, Ward 9, and William R. Hudson, Ward 42, both of North Carolina.

"Best home-cooked chow I ever ate," said paratrooper Private Herman B. Bryant, Ward 9 patient from Clyde, N. Y.

"Beautiful country, swell horse-back riding, and pa—lenty of pretty girls," exclaimed infantry Private

Chapel Schedule

PROTESTANT

Sunday Service.....9:30 a.m.
Lenten Service.....Wed., 6:30 p.m.

CATHOLIC

Sunday Mass.....8:30, 10:30 a.m.
Lenten Devotions..Thurs. 6:30 p.m.
Daily Mass.....12 noon

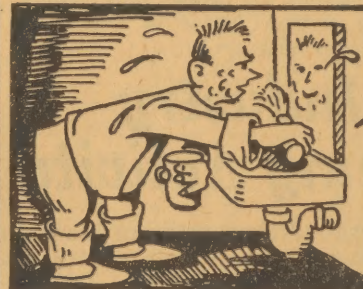
JEWISH

Friday Services.....6:45 p.m.

Cecil M. St. Clair of Ward 9, who hails from West Virginia.

"We had hot biscuits or southern corn bread for every meal, and fresh country butter, too," the four soldiers chorused.

Patients who wish to accept Mrs. Baker's invitation to spend an enjoyable weekend as her guests at the Patrick Henry Hotel in Louisa are requested to sign up at the Red Cross information desk, noting the date of the week-end they would like to go.



G.I. SHAVINGS

BY
Pvt. Joe Q. McGuire

First Anniversary Notes—Could this be the reason why everyone wanted to dance with Dolly?

"Tho she's as frail as a gal can be, And weighs no more than ninety-three,

I love to dance with Dolly Bridle, 'Cause never a single ounce is idle.

What little WAC was overheard saying to a young, quiet headquarters' sergeant, "Gosh, you must be drunk! When you're sober you hardly notice me"???

And who had nerve enough to capture that huge beast and toss it into S-Sgt. Milton Kurland's room, in the wee hours of the morning? It is impossible to say who wanted to get out first, Milt or the dog, but poor innocent Dick Rohrick happened to be coming in and was blamed for the whole thing.

You've heard what the bragging "Dennis" Rosenberg did about his blind date, but did he tell you what happened in the car? When he said to her, "What will you take for a kiss?", she answered, "If it's from you, I'll take chloroform."

There was a young Belle of Natchez, Whose garments were always in patchez.

When comment arose On the state of her clothes, She drawled, "When Ah itchez, Ah scratchez"

Military Courtesy—It might not be too long before the sight of T-3 Phil Williams and Cpl. Elmer Finkler coming down the street will send GIs ducking into alleys or gazing into store windows and the like. Both gentlemen may rate a salute soon, having successfully passed all preliminary exams and are now awaiting orders for OCS. Good luck fellows.

This is the Army(?)—Wonder what those Cadet Nurses were thinking about, when on their first day here they witnessed one of the noon jam sessions? It was evidence of the McGuire friendly make-up and among the dancers could be seen the Executive Officer, Wacs, patients, detachment lads, and civilian help. But they should have been around just a day or two before when Pfc. Myron Weinstock ex-celled in the rumba. Men screamed and women fainted. It has been rumored that because of this exhibition the Latin-American good neighbor policy has been thrown for a loss and several ambassadors are to be recalled.

Relief—The activities of the Train Division personnel had an MP Corporal talking in his sleep towards the last. The other night he was overheard saying, "Now that you guys are leaving we'll really eat. We'll have steak all next week."

"Now is the Time—" To Rhumba Rhythm

Sgt. Joseph Blackburn, who runs typing classes for patient reconditioning, had an idea that his students were capable of more typing progress than they displayed in their first few classes.

Operating on a long shot, he toted a portable victrola to a class this week and played a choice selection of rhumba records. Typing speeds immediately zoomed.

Blackburn, however, refused to be quoted on a recommendation that "Rum and Coca-Cola" be played in McGuire's administrative offices as an aid to production.

Idea Committee Reviews Turned Down Suggestions

All suggestions submitted to McGuire's suggestion committee since last Spring, and whose authors have not yet been awarded prizes are being reviewed for possible adoption, Lieutenant Velma R. White of the suggestion committee announced this week. All contributors, she stated, have the privilege of appealing to the committee by letter if they feel their ideas have not had proper consideration.

Meanwhile, W. W. Rowan, Third Service Command suggestion committee administrator, informed the local committee meeting last week that McGuire ranks favorably with other hospitals in the number and quality of suggestions submitted. Lt. Col. William H. L. Westbrook, Jr., local committee chairman, appealed at the meeting to all personnel to "look around and figure some way to eliminate irksome problems that can be solved by a little serious thought. Even thirty minutes saved each day can be of great importance in a year's time," he declared. "The War Department is willing to make liberal rewards for ideas which make for a quick victory."

Gifford Appointed Legal Aid Officer

Lt. David S. Gifford, JAGD, has been assigned to McGuire as staff judge advocate and legal assistance officer, it was announced this week.

Questions involving legal matters, domestic relations problems, divorce, income tax, notarizing, preparation of wills, powers of attorney and similar affairs will be answered without charge.

Lt. Gifford's office is on the 2nd floor, administration building. Bed confined patients needing assistance may arrange for a visit by Lt. Gifford by calling him at extension 229.

\$2,500 Red Cross Fund Over Top

(Continued from page 1) dier's watchful eye and sees to it that it is correctly mailed.

Entertainment, movies, stage shows, parties with refreshments, or band concerts held in the recreation hall and on the various wards are paid for from part of the dollar contributed during the annual drive.

Cigarettes, candy, cookies, tooth brushes, combs, soap—all the little items that mean much to a soldier—are distributed by the Red Cross. Similarly with games, cards, jig-saw puzzles and other amusement devices. All are products of the dimes and dollars collected.

The dollars help also to send millions of pints of blood plasma overseas.

Then there's motor corps transportation for the patient wanting to go to town on pass, and financial aid or advice for the families of fellows who ask for it. Or when the patient's family arrives and no hotel nor housing accommodations are available, the Red Cross steps in and helps.

Patients Take Richmond Jobs For Therapy

(Continued from page 1) crutches, he is holding down a part-time job at the Philip Morris and Company plant at 10 S. 20th Street.

"I'm gradually getting back into the swing of it," De Stefano said as he looked up from the nine-inch lathe he was operating in the Philip Morris machine shop. "I've forgotten a lot of the little things about running a lathe that I learned at General Electric in Schenectady before I entered the army, but it's coming back to me and I'll be in stride in another week or so."

"It's great to be doing something like this again and they treat me so swell down here I really want to make good to show them they're not making a mistake. I will, too."

Over at Richmond Structural Steel is Newsome of Winston-Salem, N. C., who was wounded three times in three different places within three hours last summer in France. The 22-year-old youth is an apprentice welder and is learning lay-out work at the steel plant.

USES COLLABORATES

The employment reconditioning program is in the hands of Major Muckle and Lieutenant Robert T. Morrison, chief of the separation, classification and counselling section. The officers work in collaboration with Willard B. Hine, employment counselor for the USES.

Major Muckle is in charge of the physical phase of the program, the certification that the veterans have reached a stage of convalescence where actual work would be beneficial to them. Lieutenant Morrison handles the actual placing of men in jobs listed as available by Hine.

The system works like this: A wounded patient has progressed to the stage where full-time medical treatment is not necessary. He enters McGuire's reconditioning program, gradually working up from exercises in bed to more vigorous ones outside and finally is pronounced able—and says he would like—to take an actual job on a part-time basis. He then is referred to Lieutenant Morrison.

The patient is interviewed by Lieutenant Morrison to find out what he did in civilian life and what sort of work he'd like to do now. Perhaps he has no desire to return to his old vocation, in which case his qualifications for the type of job he prefers are checked carefully. Satisfied the man can fill the job he'd like, even if only on an apprentice basis, Lieutenant Morrison sends him to one of the plants listed by Hine and he starts to work.

RECONDITIONING CONTINUES

Reconditioning and medical treatment don't end for a patient just because he takes a part-time job. All wounded veterans at McGuire are required to attend the reconditioning courses during the mornings, but are permitted to work four hours, six afternoons a week. They are paid on the prevailing wage scale for the type of work they perform.

Nearly 4,000 jobs of more than 125 types, with varying degrees of skill, are available in Richmond industry for McGuire patients, according to Hine.



"I SOLEMNLY SWEAR TO UPHOLD . . ."—A portion of McGuire's new 59 senior cadet nurses are taking their oath from Colonel P. E. Duggins, commanding officer, during a brief ceremony last Saturday in building 303 mess hall.

Sicily Just One Big Tomato Patch to Patient Almeida

By STAFF SGT. FRANK ALMEIDA

Patient, Ward 50

As told to the BANNER

It happened during the invasion of Sicily. I was platoon guide of a rifle platoon. My boys were still very tired from the African campaign as we hadn't had much rest since then. We knew we were going in for a beach landing on Sicily but thought we were lucky to be following the first assault wave instead of going in with it. All we had

to do was follow them in, push for a position on a certain bit of high ground and hold on until all troops, tanks and guns had been landed.

The Jerries had an air field only about five miles from our landing beach and they strafed our LCT's all the way in and fired at us after we landed. We triple-timed in our push to the high ground and when we got there we saw it was covered with tomato vines loaded with luscious red ripe tomatoes. Boy did they look good!

We were hungry, of course—soldiers are always hungry. And it had been a long time since any of us had had fresh tomatoes. Every guy began to gobble tomatoes as fast as he could while keeping a sharp outlook for Jerries.

UNDER COVER OF TOMATOES

We saw some tanks rolling up about a thousand yards away and one guy yelled something about how fast our guys had unloaded them. I grabbed a pair of field glasses and took a closer look. They were coming in fast. When I got them in focus I saw they were German tanks. Yelling to the boys to take cover I dropped to the ground too. But there was no cover. Only low tomato vines that wouldn't even hide a fat snake. The tanks began to surround us and opened up with some hellish fire. Twenty times I died with every shot that came over.

The Jerries really had our range

and every shot that came over seemed to hit home. I could hear the dull thud of hits all around me. I could see sickening red splashes. With each splash I asked myself, "Is that one of my buddies or another tomato?"

The hot sun beat down and cooked up nauseous waves of the mingled odor of tomatoes, battle stink, fear, tomatoes, blood, sweat and foul earth and more tomatoes.

I knew we didn't have a chance, but no American soldier likes to die without putting up a fight.

RIFLE VS. TANKS

Ours was a rifle platoon, and rifles against tanks are suicidal. For two minutes, that seemed like two centuries, I hugged the ground while trying to get up enough courage to match my puny rifle with a German tank. I wondered if they would find enough of me to identify—afterward.

Then we heard the thunder of big guns—naval guns—and we knew it had to be our own for it was coming from the direction of Licato a few miles away and we knew our battleships were standing by just off Licato.

When we saw the nearest tank knocked out by our naval fire, we all jumped up and cheered like it was a football game and our side had just made the winning touchdown.

We stamped on the tomato vines and screamed. We threw tomatoes at each other. We jumped around and screamed like maniacs as tank after tank was knocked out or turned tail and ran under our hot naval fire.

CAUGHT IN CROSS FIRE

It was a miracle that we were not all killed in the cross fire for we were right in it. As the last of the tanks turned back we ran down the hill after them like kids with sling shots chasing elephants.

We chased those tanks clear across Sicily after that, but it was really the Navy that won the opening round for us. And if they hadn't we might still be fighting the Sicilian campaign as late as today.

But if I never see another tomato it will be too soon, for I can't see them or even smell them without dying a little.

Kid Stuff

A cast of 30 children, ranging in age from four to ten years, in one of the more novel shows of the season present the play "Bambi" next Sunday, 7 p.m., Red cross auditorium, under the auspices of the Special Services office. The children are members of William Byrd Community House.

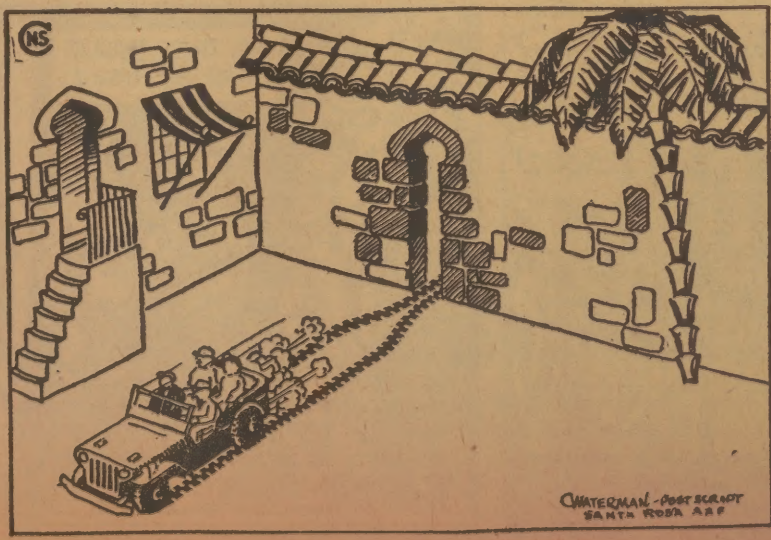
The play will be preceded by a tea for patients tendered by the Altrusa Club of Richmond.

Elks Club to Pay \$66 for Tallest Tales at Party

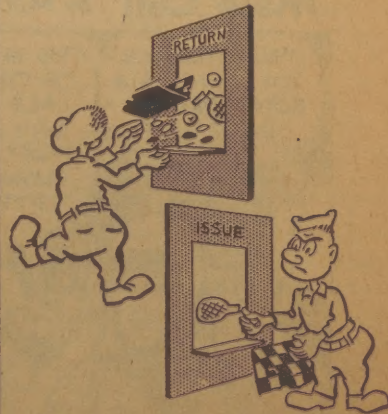
Tall tales are at a premium in McGuire. And "premium" is the word, for the Richmond Elks lodge offers prizes of \$25, \$15, \$10, and eight awards of 2 each for the tallest yarns spun at their party, March 27, to be entitled "Can You Tell a Bigger One?"

The tall tales portion of the party, to take place in the Red Cross auditorium, will be broadcast over WRNL. Entertainment and refreshments will be offered after the broadcast.

Wopping yarns are sought also by Kate Smith for use on her Sunday radio hour. Every week until June 10, Miss Smith will pay off \$250 to the patients in a general hospital who sends her the zaniest episode. Ten extra awards of \$10 each are also offered weekly. At the end of the series, the tallest of the tall will be picked by a special jury, and the author will get \$1,000 extra. Further information may be obtained at the Special Service Office, extension 224.



RETURN IT IN GOOD CONDITION . . .



YOU MAY WANT TO USE IT AGAIN

Soldiers Here Can Reserve Garden Plots

Three acres of land adjacent to the proposed athletic field in the rear of hospital grounds have been allocated for use by a new garden club to be formed here, according to an announcement by Major Craig W. Muckle, chief, reconditioning service.

The club, which will operate under the guidance of Major Barnes, will be open to all military personnel and patients. Each person will be allowed a plot of 20x50 feet. A portion of the area will be reserved for use in patient reconditioning.

Ground will be broken and plowed at an early date under the supervision of Major Walter B. Belitz, Jr., post engineer.

Produce may be kept by individual members or turned over to the mess hall.

Individuals or groups interested in reserving plots may do so by contacting Major Muckle.

Lt. Dorothy O'Hare, New Guinea Vet, Appointed Wac CO

Assignment of 1st Lt. Dorothy C. O'Hare as commanding officer of the Wac Detachment at McGuire was announced yesterday by Colonel P. E. Duggins.

Lt. O'Hare, just returned from a tour of duty in New Guinea, replaces Capt. Dale A. Van Vacter, Wac commander since the organization of the detachment.

Captain Van Vacter now will serve full time as chief of bacteriology and hematology sections of the hospital laboratory.

Expansion of the hospital to a 2565-bed capacity and consequent increased demands upon the laboratory necessitated Captain Van Vacter's assignment to her present job.

A native of Boston, Lt. O'Hare was assistant chief of section in supply at an intermediate army base in New Guinea. Previously she served as Wac detachment commander at Fort Eustis and at the station hospital at Indiantown Gap, Pa.

The new Wac CO entered service in September, 1942 and was commissioned in January, 1943.

The Wac detachment at McGuire now numbers 47 enlisted women. Under expansion plans announced recently, the hospital has been authorized 200 Wacs who are expected to arrive for duty shortly after completion of new barracks.

He Dreamed as Much

WATERVILLE, ME., (CNS)—George Champion, 82, lifer at the Thomaston State Prison, took a look at the war world outside prison walls the other day and made a startling discovery. "Women have ankles," he said. Champion saw his first woman in 45 years as he was being driven from the prison to a hospital for an operation.



McGUIRE BANK OPENS—McGuire's new branch of the Morris Plan Bank opened last Thursday with an enthusiastic rush to take advantage of its services. The new bank, which is open daily from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, is shown here on opening day.

American Negro Soldiers Fight On All War Fronts

By Camp Newspaper Service

Whether it's building B-29 bases in India, pushing the vitally-needed Ledo Road through the jungles of Burma, "Red-Balling" supplies across France, or engaging the enemy in deadly combat, the Negro soldier in this war is proving his mettle, as he has in every war in which America has been a participant, beginning with the War for Independence.

More than 700,000 Negro soldiers were on the Army's rolls at the end of 1944. Almost 6,000 were commissioned officers. Although many Negroes are doing the tough, unglamorous jobs of service and supply, others are distinguishing themselves in combat in every theater of war. Nine per cent of all U. S. soldiers who participated in the Normandy invasion were Negroes.

There are Negro air fighter squadrons, Negro infantry divisions, Negro paratroopers, Negro "medics," Negro tank men and anti-tank men, Negro mine-sappers, Negro artillerymen, ordnancemen, etc. The Army's top generals say all are doing a bang up job.

A Negro fighter pilot, Lt. Lee A. Archer, of New York City, has ten enemy planes to his credit, four in the air and six on the ground. He is a member of the 32d Fighter Group, in Italy, and has completed 138 missions.

Another Negro, Capt. Albert H. Manning, Jr., 27, a P-51 pilot, flew 123 missions with the 99th Fighter Squadron, and was awarded the DFC and the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters. They are only two of many.

The Army has no breakdown on how many Negroes have won citations and commendations for heroism or exceptional service, just as it has no breakdown on the number of Irish-Americans or Polish-Americans who have been so honored. But, culled from War Department releases, here are a few of the things for which Negroes have been cited:

A Negro Field Artillery Battalion, the 969th, participated in the heroic defense of Bastogne, where the

Free Movie Ducats For Patients

Free tickets for movies in Richmond's first run motion picture theatres are available to McGuire patients for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each week, according to an announcement recently made by Mrs. Margaret Crutchfield, Red Cross recreational director.

Patients are requested to apply to Red Cross information desk for the movie tickets, which may be picked up at any time after Friday of the previous week.

Patients may request a ticket for each day's show if they wish, but only one ticket for each day's show can be issued to a patient," Mrs. Crutchfield explained.

It is suggested that ticket requests be placed with the Red Cross information desk as early as possible as "first come, first served" will be the routine.

back of Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's winter offensive was broken, firing their 155 mm. howitzers under a rain of mortar fire and beating off German attacks "infantry style." A Negro Ordnance Group, the 71st, saved three ammunition supply points, following the German breakthrough on the 1st Army front, evacuating them under fire.

Negro and White MPs working in teams, smashed a black market ring in Cherbourg.

The 93rd Infantry Division, a Negro outfit, fought the Japs at Bougainville.

Personnel, Blackjacks In Title Clash Tonight

The unbeaten Military Personnel team and the once-defeated Blackjack Five meet at the gymnasium at 7:15 p.m. tonight to determine the 1944-45 basketball championship of the hospital.

The two teams, finalists in the intra-post tournament, met earlier in a third-round game, with Military Personnel marking up a 25 to 20 victory in the only overtime tilt played. A game between the McGuirettes and the Cadet Nurses will follow the title game at 8:30 p.m.

Cadet Hoopsters

Formation of a basketball team from among members of the Senior Cadet Nurses now training at McGuire was announced today by Lieutenant Mary Jane King, ANC, director.

The Cadets will make their debut tonight, meeting the McGuirettes at 8:30 p.m. as an encore to the intra-post championship game at the gymnasium.

Members of the Cadet team include Mildred Blitva, Dorothy Barmoy, Mary Forcellini, Lois Vejvoda, Jean Hare, Ava Allred, Mildred Reed, Margaret Peretti, Janet Seese, Eleanor Buchanan and Shirley Ocker.

Sports Announced For Nurse Cadets

An extensive athletic program to fill out, or trim down—as the case may be—McGuire's cadet nurses has been announced by Lt. J. J. Berman, special services officer.

Sports sessions, scheduled for Monday nights, 7:45 to 9:15 p.m. will include calisthenics, volleyball, basketball, handball, dodgeball, badminton, track, ping pong and other waistline prescriptions.

Girls are cautioned to look sharp, for teams will be scouted out for competitive teams in various sports.

JWB Open House

Open house for servicemen in the homes of Richmond families each Wednesday evening has been announced by the Jewish Welfare Board, Junior hostesses will be on hand at each of the parties.

Transportation to the affairs will be provided from the USO club at 201 East Grace Street.

Post Theater

Week of Thursday, March 8. Shows start at 6:15 and 8:15 p.m. Patients admitted to first show only.

Thursday—"Objective Burma," with Errol Flynn, Henry Hull. Saturday—"The Unseen," with Joel McCrea, Gail Russell and Herbert Marshall.

Sunday—"Bring On the Girls," with Eddie Bracken, Veronica Lake, Sonny Tufts.

Tuesday—Revival, "See Here, Private Hargrove," with Dana Reed. Wednesday—"Nothing But Trouble," Laurel and Hardy, Mary Boland.

The original tournament schedule, which called for each of the six entries to play the other five teams, was cut short by the withdrawal of two teams. The Train Division forfeited to both Military Personnel and the Blackjacks, and the Bed Pan Commandos lost by forfeit to the Blackjacks.

PERSONNEL TALLIES

Military Personnel, captained by Sgt. Bob Morris, compiled 99 points in winning four tournament games, while limiting opponents to 79 markers. The Blackjacks, led by WO Larry Roffman, piled up 77 points and held opponents to 66 in three games.

Two trophies will be awarded at conclusion of the tournament, Corporal Al Bianco, manager, announced. The winning team will be presented with a hand-carved plaque on which squad members' names will appear in gold leaf. High individual scorer of the tournament will receive a statuette-type trophy.

Highlight of the championship game is considered likely to be Charley Wolf's attempt to win the high-scorer trophy. Wolf, Military Personnel forward, has collected 31 points, but needs 11 in the title tilt to pass Tony Hoffman of the Klassy Kwintet, Hoffman has 41 markers, but his team will play no more games.

Lt. Dave Yoakley, who led Yoakley's Yogies in the tournament, scored 51 points and apparently won the trophy, but meet officials decided that since he had been transferred from the post the second high scorer should receive the award. YOGIES COP SECOND

Yoakley's Yogies split even in a pair of games during the week to slide out of a second place tie. The Yogies piled up a 27 to 9 half-time lead over the Klassy Kwintet and hung on through the second half to win, 35 to 25. Similar strategy failed to beat Military Personnel and Morris' unbeaten squad won, 27 to 23, by coming from behind in the closing minutes of play.

In the only other game played, Klassy Kwintet trounced the Bed Pan Commandos, 43 to 26, with Hoffman counting 19 points to pace the attack. Rennie was high for the losers with 12.

Final tournament standings:

	W.	L.
Military Personnel	5	0
Blackjack Five	4	1
Yoakley's Yogies	3	2
Klassy Kwintet	2	3
Train Division	1	4
Bed Pan Commandos	0	5

Sgt.: "There's a very important question I've been waiting to ask you for days and days."

Gal: "Go ahead. I've had the answer ready for months and months."

Male Call by Milton Caniff, creator of "Terry and the Pirates" Grilled Chicken on Three-Decker, Well Browed

